

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



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Volume 41

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

West Hollywood Begins Restaurant Food Waste Recycling Program

The next time you're enjoying sushi or a juicy steak in West Hollywood, you can feel confident that the food you leave on your plate will be recycled—yes, all the food.

The city of West Hollywood has begun a new solid waste franchise with Athens Services. As part of the new program, a major recycling effort has begun to divert food and other compostable wastes to Victorville for agricultural applications.

Key to the program in a city with a big turnover of restaurants and staff is that the business does not source-separate the food or other compostables. Athens instead conducted a waste audit to identify restaurants with more than 70% food waste in their dumpsters. These businesses were selected for the Restaurant Route to be collected by a truck devoted solely to food waste. The bins are taken "as is," including trash, to the Athens Services MRF where the loads are sorted to remove any non-food or non-compostable items. The City opted for this approach so that there would not be ongoing training of new restaurant staff or the need for a separate bin where space is at a premium.

Duane McDonald, Athens Services' Director of Environmental Services, says the program works because Athens has the capability to sort the material to remove non-compostable contaminants such as plastic, glass and metal (which are also recycled if possible) before shipping it to the composting facility. "Our sorting capabilities allow us to ship more compostable materials, while eliminating the usual necessity for the restaurant to sort food and produce from other waste and place them

in separate containers," says McDonald. "This saves our customers labor and space, and eliminates the need to have additional trucks on crowded city streets making separate pick-ups. The program is a winner for the restaurants of West Hollywood, and a big winner for the environment as well."

Key to the success of the program is the partnership between Athens Services and California Bio-Mass, operator of the composting site. "David Hardy, President of California Bio-Mass, worked with us from the start to specify a product that we would be able to sort efficiently and would work as a feed stock for their composting operation in Victorville," remarked McDonald. "His advice and partnership were instrumental in creating a program unlike any existing in Southern California."



Mr. Hardy is impressed with the quality of the loads California Bio-Mass receives from Athens. The material is composted along with green waste from residential yard maintenance and landscaping firms, and converted into a high-quality soil amendment

in high demand by farmers.

The program is in its infancy but the early reports indicate an estimated 4,000 tons of food waste will be diverted from the city's 41,000 tons of waste this year. Jan Harmon, environmental programs specialist for the City, reports that about 120 restaurants are participating in the program. Other restaurants that are fast food restaurants without a waste stream that is primarily food, or those who share dumpsters with retail stores, are not included in the first roll out.

JOIN THE TEAM: If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste* please contact **Emily Montanez** at (626) 458-3579, or emontanez@ladpw.org. Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you feel you have something to contribute why not become a member of the Subcommittee?

California's Billion Bottle March attracts hundreds to celebrate America Recycles Day

The City of El Monte held a unique community-wide event on Sunday, November 14, 2004, in celebration of America Recycles Day. In conjunction with the California Department of Conservation, the City conducted its symbolic action called the "Billion Bottle March" to raise public awareness of the fact that over a billion plastic water bottles are carelessly disposed or littered each year throughout California. In El Monte alone, this equates to more than 3 million bottles! Hundreds of local residents, as well as many civic organizations, businesses, and non-profit organizations joined in this important action.



One of the key features of the event was that all local schools and churches were invited to collect as many CRV cans and bottles as possible for the month prior to the event. Recyclers were on hand to accept the CRV materials from the public and schools, and through negotiations and recyclers' willingness, schools were paid up to four times the normal CRV value while residents were paid about double the CRV value. Over \$21,000 was paid to the community during the four-hour event, and even more prizes and money were distributed to individuals winning the art

The focal point of the celebration was the Billion Bottle March, in which half of the schools in El Monte participated and consisted of a march around the park by youth and adults shouting slogans, singing songs, carrying signs and banners encouraging local action to protect the environment and increase recycling. The March was followed by free food for all, recycling games, information tables, and a recycled art and fashion show including the design and coloring of t-shirts with environmental themes.

and fashion show, and to schools and individuals for recycling the most CRV materials. The recycler hauled out four 40-yard roll off bins of recyclables and one stationary recycling bin.

The City Council was on hand to greet the public and encourage residents to support recycling and waste prevention. The public was urged to increase recycling to decrease litter, improve the community, and protect the storm water system from trash. For more information about the event, please call (626) 332-7514.

WANTED: BOTTLE AND CAN RECYCLING SUCCESS STORIES

The California Department of Conservation is looking for "best practice" examples for bars, restaurants and office buildings that have successfully implemented bottle and can recycling programs. If your organization recycles, or if you know of someone who does, please email us at recyclinginfo@consrv.ca.gov or call Sequoia Clare at 310-392-4244.

OUTSTANDING RECYCLING PRACTICES

The city of Pasadena honored five groups and one individual as outstanding recyclers for 2004 at the November City Council meeting, marking the start of Environmental Awareness Month.

The 2004 awardees were La Salle High School's Environmental Science Course, Armory Center for the Arts, Path to Freedom, Yorkshire Development, Eaton Canyon Nature Center and John Hoffner.

La Salle High School's Environmental Science Course won for Voluntary Development of a Recycling Program. Each day for 30 minutes the students of the course collect recyclables throughout the school. Profits are used to support the program and other environmental charities. In the 2003-04 school year the students diverted over 5,430 pounds of material from landfill disposal.

The Armory Center for the Arts was the recipient for Creative Reuse of Common Materials. Donations of materials from fabric to egg cartons, to wallpaper, magazines, string, old greeting cards, plastic, cardboard, bottle caps, old boards, and numerous other discards plus natural materials such as pine cones, twigs and branches are used by students and local artists in studios and field trips. In 2003-04 approximately 50 60-gallon barrels of materials were reused and recycled.

Path to Freedom, a family operated urban farm, won the award for Preservation of Natural Resources. Path to Freedom has converted a suburban lot into an edible landscape that provides habitat for wildlife and insects and incorporates water-saving techniques, organic pest management, reuse, recycling and energy conservation. The family grows enough produce to supply its own needs plus several restaurants and caterers in the area.

Yorkshire Development, a real estate development company in East Pasadena, won in the Sustainable Development category. Yorkshire is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council and its recently completed Tricom Building on East Walnut Street incorporates many sustainable features. The building is located near bus and rail lines and provides a bicycle rack and electric vehicle charger. Construction materials included recycled carpet, rebar, sinks, floor tiles and mirrors. All adhesives, paints, carpet and linoleum contain little or no volatile organic compounds. Tricom is the first building to receive certification as a LEEDs building in the San Gabriel Valley (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

Eaton Canyon Nature Center won the award for Educational Outreach to Youth and the Public. For more than 30 years the nature center has provided programs for people of all ages. In 2004, Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates participated in Earth Day. Among the day's many activities were Make-It-Take Recycled Crafts, information on household hazardous waste, recycling and native plants for the garden and healthy snacks.

In a new category for city departments and employees, John Hoffner, Public Benefits Manager in the Department of Water and Power, was nominated by his peers as an outstanding example of a recycler. Hoffner has provided paper recycling boxes for staff desks and monitors their use by office workers. He set up a bottle and can recycling program in the break room and continually does outreach to customers and the community on environmental issues.

Applications are available year-around and due on September 1 of each year. Applications for 2005 Outstanding Recycler Awards are available by calling the city's Department of Public Works recycling section at (626) 744-4721.



There are five permanent collection centers where L.A. County residents can dispose of their household hazardous waste.

Materials such as paint, motor oil, anti-freeze, cleaning products, and pesticides can be taken to any of the five locations. Electronic waste will also be accepted including computers, monitors, printers, televisions, and cell phones.

Please read each permanent center description below for details or call 1-800-98-TOXIC or 1(888)CLEAN-LA for more information.

GAFFEY STREET COLLECTION CENTER
1400 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

HYPERION TREATMENT PLANT
7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293
Open Saturdays and Sundays 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

WASHINGTON BOULEVARD COLLECTION CENTER
2649 E. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90021
Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

RANDALL STREET S.A.F.E. CENTER
11025 Randall St., Sun Valley, CA 91352
Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

UCLA LOCATION
550 Charles E. Young Dr. West
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Electronic waste accepted on Saturdays only

What's Up?

HHW ROUNDUPS are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, at **1(888)CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about City of Los Angeles events call **1(800)98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

January 22	Hermosa Beach - Clark Stadium Valley Drive between 8th & 11th Streets
January 29	South El Monte - Community Center Parking Lot 1415 Santa Anita Ave.
February 5	Claremont - Claremont Corporate Yard 1616 Monte Vista Ave.
February 12	Santa Fe Springs - Rio Hondo Fire Training Academy 11400 Greenstone Ave.
February 19	Gardena - Hitco Carbon Composites, Inc. 1551 West 139th St.
February 26	Diamond Bar - Gateway Corporate Center City Streets, 1300 Block of Bridge Gate Dr.
March 6	Marina del Rey - Dock 52 Parking Lot Fiji Way
March 13	Glendale - Glendale Water and Power 800 Air Way
March 19	Pico Rivera - Southern California Edison Co. 8101 Rosemead Blvd.
April 2	Long Beach - Veteran's Stadium 5000 Lew Davis St.
April 9	Rosemead - Southern California Edison Co. 2255 Walnut Grove Ave.
April 16	Azusa - Northrop Gruman Corporation West 3rd St. and Zachary Pedilla Ave.
April 16-17	Northridge - Cal State Northridge Parking lot at Lassen St. & Lindley Ave. (Conducted by the City of Los Angeles)
April 23	Santa Clarita - College of the Canyons 2645 Rockwell Canyon Rd. South Parking lot

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Headquarters, 900 South
Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

February 17 - 1 p.m.
March 17 - 1 p.m.
April 21 - 1 p.m.

The February meeting is in the
12th floor conference room.
All other meetings are
in conference room B.

For information
call Andrea Wong
at (626) 458-3547.
M-Th 7:00 a.m. -
5:30 p.m.

Santa Clarita Celebrates its 10th Annual River Rally Success!

In September 2004, the City celebrated its 10th Annual River Rally. Predicting this event was going to be a large celebration, staff worked hard to make it special. Thirty-one vendors were invited to participate in the Environmental Fair portion of the River Rally, ranging from several environmental organizations, to alternatives to water softeners, to Peter Miro, an environmental artist who makes science fiction space ships entirely of discards. Adding to the fanfare, the City also held two competitions for the River Rally, one held prior to the event looking for a t-shirt design for this special event and another during the River Rally called "Don't Trash That Art, Recycled Art Competition." The City had enthusiastic participants for both competitions and also received several noteworthy entries. Although there were only a limited number of winners, everyone in the community won through high quality submissions and the lessons learned in how their individual actions actually do affect the surrounding environment.

The purpose of the annual River Rally event is to pick-up trash that, over the years, finds its way to the Santa Clara River, and to educate participants about community environmental issues. The clean-up portion of the event was not lost in the process. The City had over 1,400 volunteers show up to clean the river with incredible results. This year the participants were able to collect 15.6 tons of litter and 1.8 tons of recyclables!

There is no doubt that the City of Santa Clarita 10th Annual River Rally was a huge success. The City wants to thank each and every community member who took time from their busy Saturday to participate or volunteer for the event. It's everyone's individual contributions that made this event such a great success.

Florence Firestone Community Says: Can It!

More than 600 residents of Los Angeles County's Florence Firestone community gathered on October 9, 2004, to clean-up local streets, sidewalks and alleys and to send an important message to their neighbors: "Can It!" Can It! and its Spanish counterpart ¡MantenLA Limpia! are advertising messages that are at the crux of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works effort to reduce stormwater pollution. Over the course of a four-month period, the Florence Firestone community, and its neighboring areas, were saturated with billboard, radio, newspaper and cable television ads in an attempt to change individual polluting behaviors. After months of planning that culminated in a four-hour community beautification and celebration event, the County netted much more than just a substantial amount of trash collected. It also raised awareness of personal responsibility and environmental stewardship—principles that stand to have a long-term impact on the community of Florence Firestone.

"Florence Firestone residents collected 31,000 pounds of trash in two hours, which is phenomenal," said Melinda Barrett, head of the Environmental Affairs Section of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

"This is our second community clean-up project in a County unincorporated area, and we hope to see our Florence Firestone volunteers adopt this program as their own."

A similar LA County Public Works pilot project in 2003 led to the formation of the Clean U.P. Team, a group of Union Pacific residents who coordinated a series of their own community clean-up events this year. From all indications, Florence Firestone community members will follow that same model. With an area population of more than 60,000, the Department of Public Works hopes to get more residents involved year after year.

"This entire program goes beyond advertising and a one day clean-up event," Barrett explained. "We conduct a targeted telephone poll before and after the clean-up, monitor trash collection levels from our street sweeping crews for changes in the community's polluting behaviors and track calls to our environmental hotline."

For more information about the "Can It!" campaign and other LA County Public Works stormwater pollution prevention initiatives, call 1(888) CLEAN LA or visit 888.CleanLA.com.

DO YOU LACoMAX?

The County of Los Angeles does. Since the launch of the Internet based Los Angeles County Materials Exchange (LACoMAX) Program in 1998, residents, businesses, organizations, and institutions in the County of Los Angeles have been given an alternative to the disposal of valuable materials which are presently discarded as waste. This alternative is to find markets for reusable materials online at www.lacomax.com.

Developed and operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, LACoMAX is designed to help those with valuable surplus materials connect with those who want such materials. Users of this on-line service can post or search listings of a wide variety of available and wanted materials.

The web site is user-friendly and provides on-screen instructions which makes posting and searching for materials easy and convenient. Listings are divided into 15 categories which include wood, plastic, glass, and metals. The listings provide contact information, allowing the user to contact the listing party directly. All exchanges are coordinated between the interested parties. LACoMAX encourages feedback regarding successful exchanges by allowing users to report these transactions via the web site.

The goal of LACoMAX is to conserve landfill space by diverting usable materials, which would otherwise be sent to landfills, and putting them into the hands of individuals who can use them.

By using LACoMAX, County of Los Angeles residents and businesses benefit in the following ways:

- ❖ Dwindling landfill space is conserved as materials are diverted from disposal for reuse or recycling.
- ❖ Schools and nonprofit organizations receive desperately needed materials.
- ❖ Disposal costs are reduced for generators of discarded materials.
- ❖ Economic development is promoted as discarded materials are used as feedstock for new products.
- ❖ The County of Los Angeles communities move closer to meeting the State's goal of reducing disposal by 50 percent.
- ❖ Virgin raw materials (and the energy to process them) are conserved.

For more information about LACoMAX, contact the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-3546. You can access the LACoMAX site from the County's Environmental Resources web site, www.888CleanLA.com, or call our 24-Hour Environmental Hotline at 1(888) CLEANLA.

Los Angeles County
Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460